ARTICLES

OF

VISITATION & ENQUIRY,

To be Enquired of by the

Ministers, Church-wardens, and Side-men,

Can. 113. 115. Of every Parish, within the Dioces of

CHICHESTER,

IN THE

TRIENNIAL VISITATION

Of the Right Reverend Father in God,

RALPH,

By Divine Permission,

Lord Bishop of *CHICHESTER*,

In the Fourth Year of his Consecration,

Annoq; Dom. 1678.

LONDON:

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The TENOUR of the OATH

to be Adminiſtred to the Church-wardens and Side-men of every Pariſh.

YOU ſhall Swear, That you, and every of you, ſhall faithfully execute your ſeveral Offices of Church-wardens and Side-men, according to the Kings Laws.

So help you God, and the Contents of his holy Goſpel.

MUSEUM 48 L 8 74

Tit. I.

Concerning Churches and Chappels, with the Ornaments thereunto belonging.

Art. I. IS your Parish-Church or Chappel kept in good repair? Is it well fenced without, against the injury of the weather, and decently furnished within with a convenient Pulpit and Pew, from whence the people may hear the Word preached, and Morning and Evening-prayers with the best advantage read? Have you a large Bible and two Service-books of the last Edition? Have you a comely Surplice for your Minister when he Officiateth in time of publick Divine Service, provided; and to be duely washed at the charge of the Parish? Have you the Ten Commandments set up at the East-end of your Church or Chappel? Can. 85. Can. 82. Can. 83. Can. 58. Can. 82.

II. Is there a Font of Stone with a Cover, placed at the entrance into your Church, for the Administration of the Sacrament of Baptism? And is there in your Chancel a decent Communion-Table for the Administration of the Lords Supper; with a Carpet of Silk, Stuff, or fine Woollen Cloth, and another Covering of white and pure Linnen, to spread thereupon? And have you a fair Communion-cup and Chalice, with a Cover of silver, and one or more Flagons of silver or pewter, thereunto belonging? And are your Chancels in your several Churches sufficiently maintained in good repair? Can. 81. Can. 82. Can. 20.

III. Hath the Steeple or Tower of your Church, or Chappel, or any part thereof been pulled down; or any of the Lead or Bells formerly belonging thereunto, been imbezzled, sold, or made away? In whose hands or custody doth the same, or any part thereof, remain? Declare what you know or have heard therein. *Lindw. Provinc. Constit. lib. 3. de Immunitate Ecclesiæ.*

IV. Have you the Book of Homilies set forth by Authority? A Book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical; and a printed Table of Degrees wherein Marriage is prohibited? Can. 99.

V. Have you a Register-book of Parchment, wherein to Register the Names and Sirnames of all such persons as are Married, Christned, or Buried within your Parish; together with the Names and Sirnames of both the Parents of the Children so christned: expressing the day of the month, and year of all such Christenings, Marriages, and Burials? and is the Transcript thereof yearly, within one month after the 25th of *March*, brought into the Registry? Can. 70.

Can. 52. Can. 89. VI. Have you likewiſe another Book of Paper, wherein to record the Names and Licenſes of all ſuch Strangers as are admitted at any time to Preach in your Church or Chappel? As alſo a third Book, wherein to write down the Church-Wardens Accompts; together with a ſtrong Cheſt with three Locks and Keys, wherein to keep the aforeſaid Books, and all other the Ornaments afore-mentioned in ſafe cuſtody? And laſtly, have you a Bier with a black Hearſe-cloth, for the Burial of the Dead?

TIT. II.

Concerning the Church yard, the Houſes, Glebes, and Tythes belonging to the Church.

Can. 85. I. IS your Church-yard ſufficiently fenced with Walls, Pales, or Rails, and decently kept from the annoyance of Swine, Horſes, and other Cattel? Hath any perſon encroached upon the ſame, or made any Door into it, out of his own ground or habitation, without allowance from your Ordinary? Have any Trees there growing been 35 *Edw.* 4. cut down? how long ſince? by whom? and to whoſe uſe and benefit?

Lindw. lib. 1. *de Offic. Archid.* II. Is the Houſe of your Parſon, Vicar, or Curate, (with all the Out-houſes thereunto belonging) kept in good and ſufficient repair? Or have any of the ſaid Houſes or Out-houſes been defaced, or pulled

Ibid. de Eccleſ. edificand. down, without Licenſe from your Ordinary? and by whom? Hath any perſon encroached upon any Garden, Yard, or Cloſe, belonging to your Parſonage or Vicarage-houſe? Or cut up any Trees thereon growing? Or changed or removed the ancient Marks or Bounds of the ſame?

Can. 87. III. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements, or Cottages belonging to your Parſonage or Vicarage; as alſo a Note of ſuch Penſions, Rate-Tythes, and Portions of Tythes, or other yearly profits (either within or without your Pariſh) as belong thereunto? Have any of the ſame been withheld from your Miniſter, and by whom, as you know or have heard?

Can. 19. IV. Do you, the Church-wardens, obſerve them that come late to Church, or loyter in the Church-yard, or Porch, or diſturb the Miniſter or Pariſhioners in time of Divine-Service or Sermon, and preſent them to your Ordinary?

Lindw. lib. 3. *de rebus Eccleſiæ.* V. Have any of the Glebe-lands belonging to your Parſonage and Vicarage, been taken away or exchanged for other, without the free conſent of the Incumbent, or Licenſe from your Ordinary? By whom hath the ſame been made, and how many years ſince? and how much is your Perſonage or Vicarage damnified thereby in the yearly value thereof, as you know, believe, or have heard?

TIT. III.

Concerning Ministers.

I. IS your Minister defamed, or suspected to have obtained either his Benefice or Orders by any Simoniacal compact? Queen *Elizabeths* Injunction 26.

II. Hath he been legally Inducted into his Benefice? Can. 36.

III. Did he within two Months after his Induction publickly in the Church, upon some Sunday or Holy-day, in the time of Divine Service, read the 39 Articles of the Church of *England*, established by Authority; and there publickly declare his assent thereunto? *Lindw. lib. 3. 13 Eliz. cap.* 12.

IV. Hath he any other Ecclesiastical Benefice? Is he constantly upon his Benefice among you? How many Weeks in any one Year hath he been absent from it? Can. 41.

V. Hath your Minister a Curate to assist him? Who is that Curate? Is he conformable to the Laws and Orders of the Church of *England*? Doth he serve in any other Church beside? And what yearly Stipend doth your Minister allow him? Can. 47, 48.

VI. Doth your Parson, Vicar or Curate, in reading the daily Morning and Evening Service, Administration of the Holy Sacraments, Celebration of Marriage, Churching of Women after Child-birth, Visitation of the Sick, Burial of the Dead, and pronouncing Gods Commination against impenitent Sinners, use the Form of Words prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer, without any addition, omission or alteration of the same? And doth he use all such Rites and Ceremonies in all parts of Divine Service as are appointed in the said Book, so far as you have observed? Can. 14. Can. 21. Can. 68. Rubrick of Prayer. Commin. Visit. of the Sick. Bur. Commin.

VII. Doth your Minister at reading or celebrating the Divine Offices in your Church or Chappel, wear the Surplice? Can. 58.

VIII. Doth he observe Holy-Days and Fasting-Days, as also the Ember-Weeks, and the yearly Perambulation in Rogation Week, as in the Common-Prayer-Book is appointed; giving notice to the Parishioners of every of the same in the Church, in the time of Divine Service, upon the Sunday next before? Can. 64. Rubr. Com. Prayer, Queen *Elizabeths* Injunctions, 1559.

IX. Is your Minister licensed to preach by the Bishop, or by whom else? If so, doth he then constantly (unless in case of Sickness, or other reasonable impediment) preach himself in your Church or Chappel, one Sermon every Sunday? Or if he be not a licensed Preacher, or being so licensed, be hindred by Sickness or otherwise, as aforesaid, doth he procure a Sermon to be so preached by some other Minister, a Licensed Preacher? Or one of the Homilies, set forth by Authority, there to be read by Priest or Deacon? Can. 48. Can. 49. Can. 45. 46.

X. Doth your Minister diligently instruct the Youth of your Parish in the Church-Catechism? And doth he prepare and present them, being so instructed, to be confirmed by the Bishop of the Diocese? And doth he endeavour to reclaim all Popish Recusants and other Sectaries (if any such be inhabiting within your Parish) to the true Religion established in the Church of *England*, and to their bounden duty in obeying the Laws, and submitting to the Government thereof? Can. 59. Can. 61. Can. 66.

XI. Doth he read the Book of Canons, put forth by Authority 1603, at two times in the year, as is directed by the said Book? Did your Minister within two months after Admission into his living, reading Service upon some Sunday or Holy-day in your Parish-Church or Chappel, declare his assent and consent unto all things therein contained? And did he likewise, within three months after his Admission, as aforesaid, read a Certificate under the hand and seal of the Bishop, attesting his Renuntiation of the Covenant? A&. of Uniformity. Car. 2. 14.

XII.

Can. 67. XII. Doth he neglect or refuse to visit the Sick, or delay the Baptism of any Infant that is in danger of death? Is there any Childe past infancy or other person of more years, through your Ministers default, yet remaining unbaptized in your Parish? Doth he use to baptize any without God fathers and God-mothers, or admit either of the Parents to be God-father or God-mother to their own Children?

Can. 68.

Can. 63.

Can. 29.

Can. 5. 13 Q. Eliz. 12. XIII. Hath he at any time (as you know, or have heard) preached any false, heretical, seditious Doctrine, thereby to seduce the people into parties and factions, to the disturbance of the Publick Peace and Unity either of Church or State?

Can. 62. XIV. Hath he presumed to marry any persons in private houses? Or such as being under age, have not the consent of their Parents? Or without the Banes first published on three Sundays or Holy-days in the Church? Or at any other hours than between Eight and Twelve in the Morning; unless he had License and Dispensation so to do from your Ordinary.

Can. 72. XV. Hath your Minister taken upon him to appoint any publick or private Fasts, Prophecyings, or Exercises, not appointed by Authority? Or doth he or

Can. 73. any other Minister or Lay-person, hold any Conventicles or Meetings in private houses, within your Parish, for people of several Families to resort unto, under pretence of Preaching, Praying, Thanksgiving, or Humiliation, contrary to the Laws and Canons in that case provided.

Can. 73. XVI Is your Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer (if you have any) a man of unblameable and exemplary life? Doth he familiarly converse with ungodly, vicious, and excommunicate persons? Is he a frequenter of Taverns or Alehouses, a common Gamester, a Swearer, Railer and Quarreller? Doth he set Neighbours at variance one with another; or encourage them to Suits and Contentions? Is he noted to be an intemperate Drinker? Or vehemently suspected of Incontinency with any person either within your Parish or without?

Can. 74. Is his Apparel grave and decent, as the Canons of the Church require? Or is his Carriage and Conversation in any kind whatsoever disorderly or scandalous, and unbeseeming a Minister of Jesus Christ?

TIT. IV.

Concerning Parishioners.

Can. 110. I. IS there in your Parish any person a known or reputed Heretick or Schismatick? Any Papist, Familist, Anabaptist, Quaker, or other Sectaries, that refuse to come unto the Publick Assemblies, Prayers, or Services of the Church? Or that makes profession of any other Religion than what is Established in the Church of *England*? And if there be any such, what are their Names?

Can. 39. II. Is there any in your Parish that lieth under a common fame, or vehement suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Are there any Drunkards within your Parish, or common Swearers, or Blasphemers of Gods Name, or any that are noted to be Railers, Unclean or Filthy Talkers, or sowers of Sedition, Faction, or Discord amongst their Neighbours?

5 & 6. Ed. 6. cap. 3. Can. 13. III. Do any of your Parish, upon Sundays or Holy days, follow their bodily or ordinary Labour, or permit their Servants so to do? Or any Shops kept open, or Wares sold? Or do any Vintners, Inne-keepers, or other Victualers and Sellers of Beer or Ale, suffer any persons to tipple or game in their houses upon those days?

1 Q. Eliz. cap. 2.

Can. 18. IV. Doth every person inhabiting and sojourning within your Parish, duely resort unto your Church and Chappel upon every Sunday and Holy-day appointed for Divine-Service? Do they then and there abide quietly, with reverence,

order,

order, and decency, during all the whole time of Common-prayer, Preaching, or other Service of God there used? And are there any among you that come only to Preaching, and not to the Common-Prayers of the Church? Can. 111.

V. Doth every person reverently uncover his head, and so continue all the time of Divine-Service in the Church? Do they all reverently kneel at the Prayers, and stand up when the Creed and Gospel are read: making due reverence when the Name of Our Lord *JESUS* is mentioned? Can. 18.

VI. Are there any in your Parish that refuse to send their Infant-children to be baptized publickly in the Church, unless in case of urgent danger; in which case the Child may be baptized at home by a lawful Minister, after the Form and Rites appointed in the Liturgy, being brought to Church when recovered afterwards? Or do they send them from their own Minister to be baptized in other Parishes, or after other Form than is appointed? Or do they keep them unbaptized any longer time than the Church alloweth? and are there any Infants or more aged persons in your parish as yet unbaptized? Rubr. Bapt.

VII. Doth every Housholder in your Parish cause their Children and Servants to come to Church to learn their Catechism, and to give an account thereof unto your Minister, as he shall require it of them openly in the Church upon Sundays and Holy-days, as in the Book of Common-Prayer is appointed; that when they are well instructed in the same, they may be confirmed by the Bishop of the Diocess? Can. 59. Can. 61.

VIII. Is there any person in your Parish, who being 16 years of age, doth not receive the Sacrament of the Lords Supper at least three times in the year, of which *Easter* is always to be one? Doth your Minister, according to the Canon in that behalf, within one month after *Easter*, yearly present unto the Ordinary the Names of such as do not then receive the Sacrament? Doth any in your Parish refuse to receive the same kneeling, or from the hands of your own Minister; repairing for it to other Ministers abroad? Or are there any Strangers, not of your Parish, that forsake their own Churches, and usually repair to yours, receiving the Sacrament there? Can. 112. Can. 114. Can. 21. Can. 27. Rubr. Com. Prayer. Can. 28. and 57.

IX. Have you any among you that be denounced and declared Excommunicate for any Crime committed? How long have they been so Excommunicated? and do any of your Parish keep society with them before they be reconciled to the Church, and absolved? Can. 65.

X. Are there any living within your Parish as Man and Wife, who are within the Degrees prohibited? Or are there any, that being lawfully divorced, have married again? Or any, that being lawfully married, and not separated or divorced by course of Law, do not cohabit together? Can. 99. Can. 107.

XI. Are there any married Women in your Parish, who after their Delivery from the peril of Childbirth, refuse to make their Publick Thanksgiving to God in the Church? And when they come so to do, do they come decently apparelled, and make their Offerings according to the custom? Rub. Com. Prayer.

XII. Are there any belonging to your Parish, who refuse to pay the duty for *Easter*-Offerings to your Minister? or any that refuse to contribute and pay the Rate assessed upon them for the repair of your Church or Chappel, and for the providing of such Books, Furniture, and Ornaments as be requisite for the performance of all Divine Offices there? 27 *Hen.* 8. 20.

XIII. Do any refuse to bury their Dead according the Rites of the Church of *England*; and are there any Wills or Testaments of any persons dead in your Parish, that be yet unproved, or any Goods administred without a due Grant from the Ordinary? Declare the Names of such deceased persons, and of those also who do possess their Goods. Did any Dying in your Parish or elsewhere, leave any Legacie to your Church or Chappel, or to the Cathedral Church of Rub. Com. Prayer. Can. 6. Can. 92. 21 *Hen.* 8. 5. *Lindw. lib. de Testamen.*

Chich-

Chichester, or other Church? Were those Legacies ever payed? and how have they been bestowed?

TIT. V.

Concerning Parish-Clerks, and Sextons.

Can. 91. I. HAve you belonging to your Church or Chappel, a Parish-Clerk, aged 21 years at the least? Is he of honest life and conversation, and sufficiently able to perform his duty in Reading, Writing, and Singing? Is he chosen by your Minister, and doth he attend him in all Divine Services at the Church? Are his Wages duely paid unto him? or who withholdeth the same from him?

Can. 69. II. Doth he or your Sexton (if there be any such appointed in your Parish) diligently look to the Doors of your Church, that they be opened and locked in due time? And doth he keep your Church or Chappel clean from dust, cobwebs, and other annoyance? Doth he toll or ring the Bells at the due accustomed hours, before the beginning of Divine Service, Morning and Evening, that the people may be warned to come to Church? And when any person is passing out of this life, doth he upon notice given him thereof, toll a Bell, as hath been accustomed; that the Neighbours may thereby be warned to recommend the dying person to the grace and favour of God?

TIT. VI.

Concerning Hospitals, Schools, School-masters, Physicians, Chirurgeons, and Midwives.

1 Q. Eliz. 2. & 4. I. IS there in your Parish any Hospital, Alms-house, or Free-school, not of the Kings Foundation or Patronage? Who was the Founder, or is now Patron thereof? And what is the yearly Revenue or Stipend belonging to the Governors or Masters of the same? Is the same ordered and governed in every respect as it ought to be? And are the Revenues thereof rightly employed, according to the intention of the Founder, and of such Grants and Ordinances as have been made concerning the same?

II. Doth any man keep a publick or private School in your Parish, who is not allowed thereunto by the Ordinary? Doth your School-master teach his Scholars the Catechism of Religion, set forth by Authority? Doth he cause them upon Sundays and Holy days, orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel? and see that they behave themselves there quietly and reverently during the time of Divine-Service and Sermon?

Can. 77. Can. 79.

3 Hen. 8. cap. 11. III. Doth any man in your Parish practise Physick or Chirurgery? or any woman take upon her to exercise the Office of a Midwife, without Approbation and License of your Ordinary?

To the Church-wardens and Side-men.

KNow ye assuredly, That as the true discharging of our Office is the chief means whereby Publick Disorders, Sins, and Offences, may be reformed and punished: so if you wilfully refuse to present such Crimes and Faults as either you know to have been committed, or otherwise have heard of by publick fame: That in such Cases, you will be proceeded against in the Ecclesiastical Court of the Bishop, as in Cases of wilful Omission and Perjury. You are likewise to take the assistance of your Ministers when you draw up your Presentments.

FINIS.